(a) the number of airconditioner companies in the country and the income tax outstanding against them and the date from which it is outstanding and the details of the scheme formulated by the Government to recover the outstanding income tax;

(b) whether the income tax is still outstanding against Shiva Air Conditioner Company in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details in regard to the recovery of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Information of outstanding income-tax trade-wise or according to items of manufacture is not separately maintained. Further, very few companies wholly and exclusively manufacture air-conditioners. Therefore, information in this regard would require references to field offices spread all over the country. Collection and compilation of such information would be time-consuming and efforts and labour involved in the matter may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have the information about any particular company, the same can be collected and furnished.

(b) and (c) M/s. Shiva Airconditioning Company located at 2811, A-Block, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is a proprietary concern engaged in hiring, repairing and manufacturing of air-conditioners. According to information collected, there is outstanding income-tax of Rs.1207/- raised in January, 1997 in this case.

Challan has been sent by the Assessing Officer towards realisation of the above demand.

[English]

Dispute Settlement Forum of WTO

2775. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Commission is likely to take up a decision on hauling India to the dispute settlement forum of the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The European Communities have sought formal consultations with India, inter-alia, under Article XXII of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) alleging that continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports by India is inconsistent with India's obligations under the World Trade Organisation. India has accepted the request for consultations.

Investment in North-Eastern Region

2776. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total private investment made since the adoption of new economic policy in the seven North-Eastern States in the sectors of power, coal mining, oil and gas exploration/tapping, civil aviation, inland water-ways, and roads;

(b) the particulars of the projects in which the said private investment has been made; and

(c) the number of private investors who have availed of the special incentives given for investment in the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Since the adoption of new economic policy till June, 1997, 16 Letters of Intent involving investment of Rs. 2431 Crores were granted and 87 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda with a proposed investment of Rs. 4017 Crores were filed for setting up of industries in the seven North Eastern States. However, details regarding private investment made in power, coal mining, oil and gas exploration/tapping, civil aviation, inland water-ways and roads or special incentives availed by private investors are not centrally maintained.

Coal Linkage

2777. SHRI B.K. GADHVI:

SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of quarterly allocation of coal linkage for power generation;

(b) the quarterly demand of coal by Gujarat Electricity Board during the last three years and the actual allocation made;

(c) whether the supply of coal has been as per the demand;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the future planning for allocation and supply of adequate coal linkage to GEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Linkages to power houses in the country including the power houses of Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) are sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee (short term) on quarterly basis taking into account the long term projections, the views of Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority, availability of coal, payment and transport constraints and unloading performance of the Power Station etc.

Since outstanding dues from GEB had mounted and the GEB had not made arrangements to clear even the